T/SOR/43/1/2

CLYDESIDE RESISTANCE

No. 3 NOVEMBER 1988

WE'RE NO PAYING THE POLL TAX !

OUR FIRST VICTORY

THE FIGHTING FIFTY THOUSAND. That's the number of people who had refused to return their Poll Tax forms in Strathclyde alone by early October: the date the Council planned to have the entire population signed, sealed and delivered to the Tory government.

Despite the waffle from Malcolm Rifkind – and certain big lumps of stodge in the Labour Party – this represents a real victory for all who refuse to be Maggie's guinea pigs.

- **A VICTORY: by throwing a spanner into the machinery of government and delaying the Council's 'Quisling' registration plan.**
- **A VICTORY: by giving the government a warning shot that tens of thousands are not prepared to see themselves and others intimidated into doing without heat and food to pay impossible bills.**
- **A VICTORY: by showing how grass roots organisation can be built: ready, willing and able to mount a real challenge to the Poll Tax next year.**

Of course Rifkind and the Scottish 'Colonial' Office have been claiming 99% registration.

BUT AS ONE COMEDIAN SAID – IF THEY WERE *GIVING* MONEY AWAY THEY WOULDN'T GET THAT KIND OF RETURN.

However hundreds of thousands in Scotland have been forced to register and many more will have their names put on the list in spite of them not co-operating.

THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT! Anti Poll Tax Protestors block the traffic in George Square.

But the fact remains that, registered or not, ONE MILLION SCOTS – a quarter of those due to pay – will refuse to pay come April next year.

ALLEGIANCE

In the past, Thatcher used the old 'divide and rule' against people like the miners and printers. This time, though, it's different: she's wanting us all to bow the head at the same time and pay an 'oath of allegiance' tax.

This time there's a chance of real change as many begin to realise that nobody listens to opposition speeches in Parliament – least of all the Government.

The housing schemes and towns of Clydeside and Scotland must become citadels of non-payment: building new, open and flexible forms of organisation over the next six months that can generally reflect the resistance in their communities.

We must deliver the message to Thatcher, Rifkind – and Donald Dewar – the fight's not over: WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN!

ALL THE LATEST ANTI POLL TAX ACTION

A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW...

THE MOST vocal comment at the Anti-Poll Tax meeting in Dennistoun at Haghill Primary on Monday 24th October was "Where is our local MP?"

Michael 'Bob' Martin of course was nowhere to be seen and it was left to Josey Logan, of Haghill Tenants Association, to chair the meeting with guest speakers Councillor McAvennie and Ian Smart, a Scottish Labour Party Executive member and lawyer. Forty locals were present although a fair number of them were trendy social workers and teachers from the Labour right.

Their middle class english accents made a few women of the area ask heatedly "How many of you come from this scheme?"

Other comments from the "real" residents of Dennistoun were:

- **"What have the 50 MP's done about it?"**
- **"Never mind the 'Stop It' campaign what about non-payment?"**
- **"The Labour Party want our vote but are unwilling to do anything for us".**

The oft repeated phrase of the night "Where's our local MP tonight?" (safely ensconced in the Celtic Club in Springburn as usual) drew a good few smirks from people who know him. At a salary of £30,000 plus a year he can certainly afford to oppose the non-payment campaign but none of the residents seemed aware of their MP's views on the Poll Tax issue.

The be-suited individuals on the chair were at a total loss on how to handle these very vocal residents, the majority women incidentally. The shiny shoes talked about all the Anti-Poll Tax organisations with the glaring exception of one; The Strathclyde Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups. WHY?? I take it that the uncompromising position held by the Federation doesn't fit into the appeasement stance of well-to-do sycophantic silver tongues. Another question asked was "Where is our local councillor?" Quite a few people there instantly visualised "Sell out City" Bailie Jim McLean and the inside of "Chambers" pub; nuff said.

•It's been so long since anyone has seen Bailie Beer Gut that a recent photo was unavailable but here's the photo of another joker

All in all it was a shabby showing from the Labour Party more especially since it was the first Poll Tax meeting in Dennistoun for many months. The people of the area deserve better than this. The end result of the night left people fustrated, disillusioned and ANGRY. The women leaving that night summed up as follows "We want our area organised and no one seems to be doing anything!"

Time for a bit of grass roots organising!

CONFUSED?

"THE POLL Tax Revolt is over" announces the Evening Times. Let's wait for the next Labour Government says Neil Kinnock and Donald Dewar. I'm not going to help but I'll climb aboard if there is a mass non-payment groundswell next April – says Campbell Christie of the STUC. Some 'left' Labour MPs say let's form a Committee of 100 of those that can afford to pay. The SNP say let's get 100,000 well heeled Scots to back non-payment and, by the way, it would be nice if you could vote for us as well!

With friends like this who needs enemies?

CONNED

Let's get it absolutely straight. We'll only defeat this tax if EVERYBODY who can't afford to pay it refuses to take a backseat. We will only have ourselves to blame if we get conned (again!) by those who want to take responsibility away from ourselves and our class.

The only language Thatcher and the boss class understand is: WE'RE NOT TAKING IT ANYMORE. This will scare the hell out of them if enough of us really mean it and you won't see Politicians and Union leaders for dust.

Who's confused now?

AROUND THE GROUPS

POLLOKSHIELDS against the Poll Tax have issued the latest of their regular newsletters, and are asking any members of their community facing penalties to contact them.

Curry Nights organised by the local Asian community are a popular and successful fundraiser!

CASTLEMILK Anti Poll Tax Union have adopted a new policy of Direct Contact. They're going round visiting the many members of their union, to avoid feelings of isolation, and are anxious to make personal contact with groups in other areas.

IBROX Anti Poll Tax group have been holding regular street stalls, complete with musicians, and are holding a public meeting on Monday 7th November at Ibrox Primary, Edminston Drive on the Poll Tax and the Ballot Box.

WOODLANDS Against the Poll Tax are having regular meetings and stalls and have produced stickers, badges and tri-lingual leaflets.

DADDY SAYS NO – Bob Gillespie was approached by a protestor in Govan recently, and urged to support non-payment. "I would, but the Party willnae let me!" muttered big, Brave Bob.

STRATHCLYDE ANTI-POLL TAX FEDERATION

CONFERENCE

FOR MASS NON PAYMENT

Saturday 19th November
11.00 – 4.30pm

Shettleston Town Hall
Wellshot Road

SEND YOUR REPORTS TO

CLYDESIDE RESISTANCE

Box 30,
340 West Princes St.
Glasgow G4

AS IF THE POLL TAX WASN'T BAD ENOUGH...

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING, yet another vicious attack on the unemployed started last September.

The scheme is commonly known as ET, but unlike the friendly little alien in the film, this ET plans to force people to work for their benefit, to create slave labour, for the rich fat cat Bastards who are always milking the working class dry. It will mean even more enormous profits, so it will come as no surprise that they fully support it. It will be aimed at the long term unemployed: 18-24 year olds signing on for more than six months and 18-50 year olds signing on for more than 2 years.

Most people will be no better off, getting only their existing benefit plus £10 and you have to pay the first £5 of travel costs. You also have to pay the full cost of meals and clothes, but if all that's not bad enough it could also effect your housing benefit.

So what to do? Refuse to be intimidated into ET by restart interviewers – go along with a friend for support. Join any campaigns you see by local claimants unions and unemployed workers centres. It's another attack like the Poll Tax so it's up to us to stand up and fight.

NO LOANS
NO POLL TAX

Student/Education Rally

Thursday, 17th November
John Street
Strathclyde University

Invited Speakers: T. Sheridan
A. Scargill

FOLLOWED BY MARCH TO KELVINGROVE

T/SOR/143/1/2

CLYDESIDE RESISTANCE

No. 2 SEPTEMBER 1988

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE
REFUSE TO PAY THE POLL TAX

JOIN THE PICKET OF THE SCOTTISH LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE
SATURDAY 17th SEPT 10.00AM
GOVAN TOWN HALL

NOT A BLOODY PENNY!

by Billy Wilson

ON SATURDAY the 17th of September probably the most important decision ever taken by the Labour Party in Scotland will be known.

On this decision hinges the future of the Labour Party as a credible voice of the majority of the Scottish people.

To pay the Poll Tax under protest or to organise a mass campaign of non-payment is the stark choice facing this special conference.

If the delegates choose passive payment then I can see the working class never again putting their faith in the Labour Party in Scotland.

Tenants' groups, individual communities and the vast majority of people are opposed to this tax. Spearheaded by the Anti-Poll Tax Unions there is a vast groundswell of clamour and activity urging a non-payment stance.

To ignore this would be wicked and deceitful – yet there is a grave danger that this may happen.

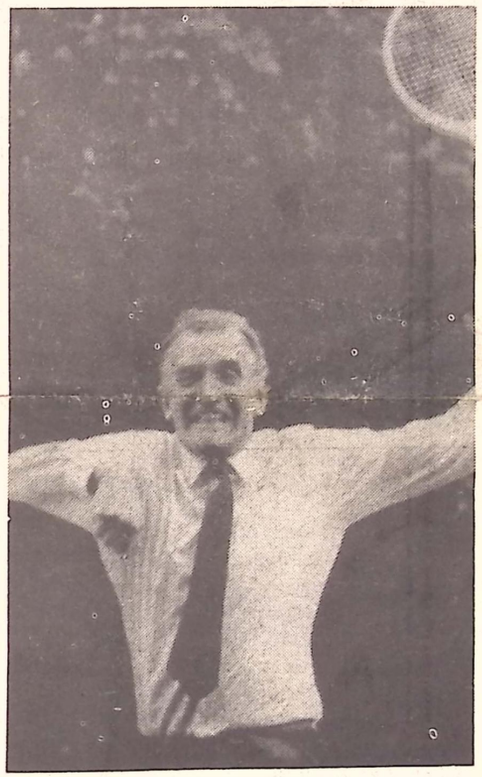
With a few exceptions this conference will be dominated by a majority of delegates who will slavishly follow the weak-kneed Kinnock.

If the Scottish Labour Party are honest to themselves then they have no option but to react to the demands of the people and vote for non-payment. Anything else can only be seen as a betrayal of the interests of the working class: a betrayal which I have no doubt will rebound on them.

At the end of the day it is the rank and file of people in Scotland who will determine the success or failure of the Government's plans to impose this tax.

I look to them to see through the machinations of all political groups seeking succour through the campaign against the Poll Tax and act as all mass movements have acted: by mass protest and non-compliance.

It is our only hope.



NEW BALLS PLEASE!

WHO THE deuce is this?! It certainly can't be Boris Becker. It could be Boris Karloff.

However, the gentleman in question is none other than the fitful John Maxton MP, pictured here on a recent tour of his constituency, urging the public to accept the Poll Tax.

Although he failed to score any points, Mr Maxton, by toeing the line and lending a hand to the racket, is serving to ensure a net profit for the rich.

He wants everyone to play the game, there being, in his opinion, nothing to gain by breaking your opponents outwith the courts.

That just wouldn't be cricket, would it?

ACTIONS AROUND THE CITY

GOVAN Federation Against the Poll Tax. Public Meeting: Pearce Institute – Monday, 29th August, 7.30.

IBROX Against the Poll Tax. Whitefield Road Community Hall, Tuesday 6th September, 7.30.

STRATHCLYDE Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Groups. Demonstration: Tuesday 13th August. Assemble Washington Street, 1.30.

GOVAN March from Scottish Labour Party Conference (Govan Town Hall) to Elderpark. Saturday 17th September following lobby at 10.00am.

SEND YOUR REPORTS OF ANTI-POLL TAX ACTIONS TO *CLYDESIDE RESISTANCE* AT:
Box 30,
340 West Princes Street,
Glasgow G4.

WE JUST HAVEN'T GOT A CHOICE!

by Simon Shawfield

THERE'S BEEN talk in some quarters of continuing the anti-Poll Tax campaign by forming groups of well-known 'celebrities' and 'pillars of society' who will publicly refuse to pay the Poll Tax.

Well, these people are in a position to make a choice whether to pay up or not – a lot of us aren't!

For many people it won't be a political stance they'll be taking in not paying, they simply can't afford to.

Those low-paid and pensioners who were hit with massive cuts in Housing Benefit in April, when £31 million was clawed back by the government; those on Youth and Job Training Schemes who will get no rebates at all when the tax is introduced; those with large families of teenagers still living at home – where are they meant to find the extra cash from?

Also this scheme continues the myth that we have to look to our 'leaders' for a lead in combatting the Poll Tax.

Well it's time to bury the myth once and for all, for the only way this Poll Tax will be effectively stopped is by a mass campaign of non-payment by ordinary people organised in their localities and supporting one another.

It's time to start saying Enough is Enough! If not here – where? If not now – when?

Our fearless leader Donald 'Duck' Dewar resisting baddie Malcolm Rifkind.

CAMPAIGN REPORTS

KEEP IT OPEN

■ **MORE and more groups formed to fight the Poll Tax are operating with Open Committees. New groups in Woodlands and Ibrox/Cessnock, for example, have stated that their aim is to involve everybody prepared to give it a go.**

A committee that is open cuts down the need for lots of office-bearers, and is more likely to win the support of citizens who distrust the stuffy and secretive reputation of many community organisations.

Local groups can become mass assemblies of activists refusing to pay or co-operate providing there is resistance against manipulation and would-be leaders operating without a revocable mandate.

PACKED MEETING IN CASTLEMILK

■ OVER a hundred people attended the recent Castlemilk anti-Poll Tax meeting. After a lively discussion it was overwhelmingly agreed that the Castlemilk campaign should adopt a stance of non-payment of the Poll Tax, instead of the delaying tactics advised the Labour Party's 'Stop It' campaign.

During the discussion Labour MP Thomas McAvoy attempted to justify his own lack of commitment to non-payment of the Poll Tax by stating that the non-payment campaign was composed of communists and anarchists.

This back-peddling by McAvoy angered the vast majority at the meeting; some people suggested that the reason McAvoy and his fellow Labour MP John Maxton were not prepared to make a stand against the Poll Tax was that both MP's would profit by hundreds of pounds if the Poll Tax is implemented.

They know what side their bread is buttered on.

SCOT FREE!

■ **AS the law stands (August '88) no-one in Scotland can go to jail for refusing to co-operate with the Poll Tax.**

The only possible exception would be if you removed goods AFTER a warrant sale notice had been issued. In England jail has been retained as an option.

POSTAL POINTS

"Around here forms have been burnt, fed to dogs, used as confetti..."
Janet, Garthamlock

"Forward leaflets urgently and I will arrange distribution..."
Kathleen, Milton

"All who try and place political power or advantage first must be swept overboard in the storm of the people's anger..."
John, Springburn

■ SEND IN *YOUR* REPORTS.

PETITIONING IS FOR BEGGARS!

■ **RADICAL Scotland reports the following sinister Tory reply in Parliament:**
***Tommy Graham (Labour):* Is the Minister saying that from now on the names and addresses on petitions will be used for purposes of gathering information for the Poll Tax?**
***Ian Lang (Conservative):* That is broadly what I suggested.**